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Title: An Astro-Anthropological Paradigm

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Abstract: Through a brief survey of relevant topics such as ethnography, biology, astronomy, and physics, the dimensions of an “astro-anthropology,” or the study of extraterrestrial cultures and intelligences, can be imagined. More than pure conjecture, this paper aims to theorize the foundations of a new kind of anthropological endeavor, such that should the need ever arise, at least some segment of the anthropological discipline could be prepared with the theoretical and methodological tools necessary to engage in such research. Through understanding what we can presently know, we can determine those things that we cannot yet. With a knowledge of what those might be the field will better know what it should focus on, combined then with a broadening of the already inter-disciplinary approach anthropologists use to organize the researchers to best achieve the goals of understanding. More than any other field, anthropology is uniquely positioned to bridge otherwise unbridgeable divides, primarily to ensure peaceable and equitable relations with any such intelligences, and secondarily to expand the boundaries of our own self-knowledge through the study of others.